

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 192989
ORIGIN NODS-00

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USLO PEKING IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 192989

NODIS
-STADIS FOR WOODCOCK ONLY FROM HOLBROOK////////////////

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP, CH

SUBJECT: SECRETARY'S VISIT TO CHINA

1. A LETTER PROVIDING YOU BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON THE APPROACH THE SECRETARY WILL FOLLOW WITH THE CHINESE IS BEING HAND CARRIED BY EITHER ELIZABETH BOYD OF MY STAFF OR AN ADVANCE SECURITY OFFICER WHO WILL ARRIVE IN PEKING ON THURSDAY OR FRIDAY. THIS WILL FILL YOU IN ON WHAT WE HOPE TO ACCOMPLISH WITH THE SECRETARY'S VISIT.

2. REGARDING PRESS HANDLING, WE ARE CONSCIOUSLY TRYING TO LOWER EXPECTATIONS FOR THE TRIP. WHEN PRESSED, WE ARE READY TO SAY ON BACKGROUND THAT WE DO NOT EXPECT TO RETURN WITH A NORMALIZATION AGREEMENT. WE WISH TO TRY
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TO DILUTE THE PRESS OBSESSION WITH NORMALIZATION AS THE ONLY ISSUE OF CONSEQUENCE ON THE AGENDA WITH A STRONG EMPHASIS ON THE GLOBAL DISCUSSIONS. WE ARE USING THE LINE THAT AFTER SEVEN MONTHS IN OFFICE, IT IS TIME FOR A FULL-SCALE DISCUSSION OF GLOBAL ISSUES BETWEEN OUR NEW ADMINISTRATION AND THE NEW LEADERSHIP OF CHINA. FURTHER-MORE, THESE GENERAL DISCUSSIONS ARE EXTREMELY IMPORTANT

AND WILL HELP DETERMINE THE FUTURE COURSE OF US-PRC RELATIONS. WE ALSO POINT OUT THAT WE ARE NOT "RUSHING" TO PEKING; IN FACT, THIS TRIP COMES AFTER HIGH-LEVEL US CON-

TACTS WITH EVERY OTHER MAJOR COUNTRY AND MANY LESSER ONES SINCE JANUARY 20. HAVING USED THIS APPROACH WITH SEVERAL REPORTERS LATELY, I CAN TELL YOU THAT IT HAS ONLY LIMITED APPEAL TO REPORTERS INTERESTED ALMOST EXCLUSIVELY IN NORMALIZATION, WE MUST CONTINUE TO TRY AND AS THE SAYING GOES, IT ALSO HAS THE ADDED VIRTUE OF BEING TRUE.

3. COULD YOU SHARE PARAGRAPH 2 WITH ANY OF YOUR STAFF WHO MIGHT SEE JOURNALISTS IN PEKING THIS WEEK. WE ARE USING IT HERE FAIRLY WIDELY.

4. I LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU SOON IN YOUR NEW FIEFDM. WARM REGARDS. VANCE

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